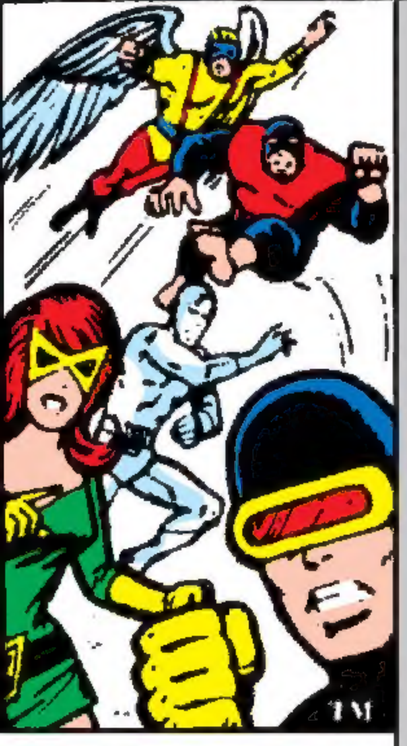

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

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MCG

# THE X-MEN MEET FRANKENSTEIN! 'NUFF SAID!

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

# the X-MEN

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## "THE MARK OF THE MONSTER!"

# X-MEN! THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM OF ALL TIME!™

# "THE MARK OF the MONSTER!"

FACTOR THREE HAS BEEN DEFEATED!! THOUGH NO GAUDY *VICTORY BANNERS* WAVE IN THE COOL AUTUMN AIR --THOUGH THE VERY *EARTH* ITSELF REMAINS IN IGNORANCE OF THE NUCLEAR DISASTER SO NARROWLY AVERTED-- THE EXTRAORDINARY *X-MEN* TAKE A MOMENTARY BREATHER AFTER A *JOB WELL DONE!*

OF COURSE, *THEIR* IDEA OF RELAXATION IS NOT NECESSARILY THE SAME AS THAT OF US NORMAL *HOMO SAPIENS--!*

GO, *BEASTIE--* *GO!!*

IF YOU LOSE YOUR BALANCE, THOSE *FORCE BEAMS* I JUST TURNED ON WILL KNOCK YOU CLEAR INTO NEXT YEAR'S *DICTIONARY!*

*NO CLOWNING AROUND, BOBBY!* OUR DANGER-ROOM TESTING IS *SERIOUS BUSINESS!*

PROFESSOR X DIDN'T DESIGN THAT MACHINE FOR OUR *AMUSEMENT!*

YOU MAY *DISPENSE* WITH THE ADMONITORY REMARKS, MR. SUMMERS!

NEITHER *SLEET* NOR *SNOW* MAY SLOW THE BOUNDING *BEAST* ON HIS APPOINTED ROUNDS-- TO COIN A *PHRASE!*

*SMILIN'* **STAN LEE** EDITS AND EDIFYINGLY ENRICHES A **ROY THOMAS-DON HECK** MASTERWORK OF MOUNTING MENACE!

*AMELIORATIVELY INKED BY:* **GEORGE TUSKA**

*ALLITERATIVELY LETTERED BY:* **ARTIE SIMEK**

WHAT'S MORE, THEY DID IT ALL JUST FOR *YOU,* TIGER--SO TURN THE PAGE AND *LIVE* A LITTLE....!

*TIK!*

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HMMM...MAYBE SLEET AND SNOW CAN'T STOP MY BOASTFUL BUDDY...

BUT, LET'S SEE WHAT A LITTLE ICE ON THIS EVER-LOVIN' TIGHTROPE CABLE DOES FOR HIM!

AND, A FEW SECONDS LATER, AS THE QUICK-FREEZING FINGERS OF ICEMAN DO THEIR WORK...

-OOOPS!- IT WOULD SEEM THAT MY FRIGID LITTLE FRIEND IS REVERTING TO HIS DAYS AS A PRACTICAL JOKER!

THEREFORE, IT BEHOOVES ME TO ABANDON THIS PRECARIOUS PERCH--POST HASTE!

-UNNNH!- I SLIPPED--RAN PELL-MELL INTO ONE OF THOSE FORCE BEAMS!

THUK

HOW IGNOBLE THAT THE GAZELLE-LIKE BEAST SHOULD BE SO UNCEREMONI-OUSLY CROWNED!

UH OH! LOOKS LIKE I GOOFED! I'M SURE GLAD OL' HANK WASN'T HURT!

IT'D SURE BE NUTTY IF HE SURVIVED A BATTLE WITH THE MUTANT-MASTER'S CREW--JUST TO GET FLATTENED BY ONE OF HIS OWN TEAMMATES!

I WAS JUST HAVIN' SOME FUN, BEASTIE! CAN'TCHA TAKE A JOKE?

THAT LITTLE JOKE, SON, JUST GAVE ME A HEADACHE THAT EVEN EXCEDRIN WON'T CURE!

BUT, DON'T DESPAIR! I PROMISE TO GIVE YOU ONE THAT WILL MAKE MINE SEEM DECIDEDLY PALE BY CONTRAST!

YEESH! I'D SUGGEST THAT WE TALK THIS OVER--IF I COULD UNDERSTAND JUST WHAT YOU'RE SAYIN'!

NEVER FEAR, MY NON-COGNIZANT COMPEER! I SHALL OBLIGINGLY DEMONSTRATE WHAT I MEAN--!

BEAST--I ALL OF YOU! STOP CLOWNING AROUND! I WANT YOU!

WHO'S CLOWNING?

KNOCK IT OFF, YOU TWO! THAT'S THE PROFESSOR CALLING!

TO HIS STUDY--ON THE DOUBLE! HE AND MARVEL GIRL MUST BE THERE!

BUT, SCANT SECONDS LATER, AS THE COLORFUL FOURSOME RACE THRU THE *HALLWAY* OF THEIR UNIQUE SCHOOL...

*SLOW DOWN,* BOYS--BEFORE YOU RUN OVER *ME!*

*JEAN!* BUT, WEREN'T YOU WITH THE *PROF*--WORKING ON SOME KIND OF *HUSH-HUSH PROJECT?*

THE ANSWER TO *THAT* QUESTION, WARREN, IS... *YES AND NO!*

AND IF *THAT* ISN'T A TYPICAL *WOMAN'S ANSWER*-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT *IS!*

*MOVE,* ALL OF YOU! WE'VE GOT TIME FOR GUESSING GAMES *LATER*--AFTER WE'VE SEEN WHAT THE *PROFESSOR* WANTS!

AND, WITHIN MOMENTS, IN THE BOOK-LINED, SECRET-SHROUDED *STUDY* OF THE WORLD'S MOST MENTALLY-ADVANCED *MUTANT...*

I SUMMONED YOU IN SUCH HASTE, MY X-MEN, BECAUSE I'VE JUST LEARNED AN ASTONISHING PIECE OF *NEWS*--ONE WHICH WILL SOON SHOCK THE ENTIRE *WORLD!*

THE UNHOLY CREATION KNOWN AS *FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER*--HAS BEEN *FOUND!*

*FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER?* BUT, HE'S JUST A *MYTH*--SOMETHING YOU SEE ON THE *LATE, LATE SHOW!*

SO A COMPLACENT *MANKIND* HAS ALWAYS THOUGHT, BOBBY!

BUT, I'M NOT SPEAKING OF A *MOVIE MONSTER!* RATHER, I MEAN THE *EIGHT-FOOT HUMANOID* REFERRED TO IN THE NOVEL BY *MARY SHELLEY!*

I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THE BOOK WAS BASED ON AN *ACTUAL OCCURRENCE*--AND NOW I'M *SURE* OF IT!

IT'S *INCREDIBLE*--BUT HE *MEANS* IT! HE'S SO *GRIM*--SO *INTENSE!*

I CAN FEEL HIS MENTAL VIBRATIONS FROM *HERE,* LASS!

"*NO TALKING,* PLEASE--UNTIL I *FINISH!* JUST NOW, I WAS ENGAGED IN SOME, UH, *MENTAL EXPERIMENTS*--WHEN I ACCIDENTALLY INTERCEPTED A RADIO MESSAGE FROM NEAR *NEW YORK HARBOR...*"

"IT TOLD OF A MAMMOTH BEING FOUND NEAR THE *ARCTIC CIRCLE*--ENTIRELY IMMOBILE, AND ENCASED IN *SOLID ICE*--"

IT'S *BEYOND BELIEF!* NO HUMAN EVER *ATTAINED* SUCH A GREAT SIZE!

WHO SAYS THAT THING'S *HUMAN,* DR. POWELL?

*NO MATTER!* WHATEVER IT IS--IT'S A MARVELOUS FIND FOR THE *CITY MUSEUM* OF NEW YORK!

THE MUSEUM *FINANCED* THIS POLAR EXPEDITION--AND THIS DISCOVERY WILL MORE THAN *PAY THEM BACK!*

ALL RIGHT, SIR--SO SOME SCIENTISTS FOUND *SOMETHING* UP THERE, FROZEN SOLID! BUT, DOES THAT PROVE THAT--*HOLY HANNAH!*

THAT *FACE*--THE PROFESSOR'S MENTALLY PROJECTING IT ON THE *WALL!* IT CAN ONLY BE--

*YES,* JEAN, IT *IS*--THE SO-CALLED *MONSTER* CREATED BY *VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN!*

A FEW MINUTES AGO, I SENT MY *ASTRAL SELF* TO THAT DOCKING SHIP--AND THIS IS WHAT I *SAW* THERE!

*YEESH!* THAT BOZO MIGHT EVEN LOSE A BEAUTY CONTEST WITH THE *HULK!*

BUT, WHAT WAS HE DOIN' PLAYING *NANOOK OF THE NORTH?*

I SEE YOU HAVEN'T READ THE *NOVEL,* BOBBY--WHICH I BELIEVE I *ASSIGNED* LAST SPRING!

IN IT, VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN *PURSUED* HIS GROTESQUE CREATION INTO THE *ARCTIC REGIONS!*

AND *THERE*--NEAR THE TOP OF THE WORLD--HE *DIED!*

"AS FOR THE *MONSTER*--IT BOARDED THE SHIP TO SEE HIS LIFELESS *FORM*--"

"THEN, IT LEAPED *OVERBOARD*--AND *VANISHED* FROM SIGHT..."

THE NOVEL *CLOSES* WITH THE WORDS: "*HE WAS SOON BORNE AWAY BY THE WAVES AND LOST IN DARKNESS AND DISTANCE!*"

I'VE ALWAYS SUSPECTED THAT HE REALLY *EXISTED*--BUT I THOUGHT HE WAS *GONE... FOREVER!*

I'M AFRAID I'M STILL IN THE DARK *MYSELF,* PROFESSOR! HOW DOES THIS CONCERN *US?*

DO YOU THINK THAT THE *REAL* CREATURE--WAS A *MUTANT?*

*NO,* JEAN--THOUGH YOUR GUESS IS NOT FAR *WRONG!* I SUSPECT THAT THE SUPPOSED "*MONSTER*" WAS IN TRUTH A SUPER-POWERFUL *ANDROID!*

YET, BY EXAMINING HIM, I MAY PROVE THAT HIS *CREATOR*--WHOEVER HE MAY HAVE BEEN--*WAS* A MUTANT!

OF *COURSE*--AND ONE POSSESSING A HIGHLY ADVANCED *BRAIN!*

THAT IS MY *BELIEF!* BUT *NOW*--

--TIME GROWS *SHORT!* FOR, THE CREATURE HAS BEEN TAKEN TO THE *CITY MUSEUM* --WHERE THEY PLAN TO *DEFROST* HIM!

AND, IF THEY *SUCCEED*--THEIR LIVES MAY BE IN DIRECT *PERIL!*

DO YOU MEAN--THAT THING MIGHT STILL BE *ALIVE,* PROFESSOR--AFTER MORE THAN A *CENTURY?*

IF HE WAS TRULY AN *ANDROID*--HE *CANNOT DIE* AS WE KNOW IT!

YOU *HEARD* THE PROFESSOR! LET'S *GO!*

OKAY--BUT IF *THIS* WORKS OUT, ON MY NEXT VACATION I GO LOOKING FOR THE *YELLOW BRICK ROAD!*

BUT EVEN THE EXTRAORDINARY *X-MEN* CAN'T BE AT TWO PLACES AT THE SAME TIME! THUS, A SHORT TIME LATER, IN THE AFOREMENTIONED *MUSEUM...*

*DR. POWELL!* I DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND *YOU* IN HERE WITH THAT--THAT *GIANT* YOUR EXPEDITION FOUND!

YOU KNOW THAT THE *GOVERNMENT* SAID NOT TO PERFORM ANY *EXPERIMENTS* ON HIM UNTIL--

*BLAST* THE GOVERNMENT! IT WAS *I* WHO FOUND THIS CREATURE--NOT SOME POMPOUS *BUREAUCRAT!*

AND IT IS *I* WHO HAVE THE *RIGHT* TO EXAMINE HIM FIRST--*NO ONE ELSE!*

STAND BACK WHILE I LOWER THE *TEMPERATURE* INSIDE HIS PLASTIGLASS CASING!

*LOWER* THE TEMPERATURE? BUT, DR. POWELL--ISN'T THAT EXTREMELY *DANGEROUS?*

WHAT IF--IT'S *ALIVE??*

DON'T TALK *NONSENSE*, MAN! OF *COURSE* IT'S NOT ALIVE!

NOW, FOR THE LAST TIME--*LEAVE ME ALONE!*

AH...JUST A FEW *MORE* DEGREES, AND--

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, JUST *OUTSIDE*, THE MUSEUM RECEIVES A RELATIVELY DISTINGUISHED *VISITOR*--AND *FRIENDS...*

*PROFESSOR XAVIER!* A PLEASURE TO *SEE* YOU AGAIN, SIR!

I'M SORRY WE'RE *CLOSED* FOR THE NIGHT! WE HAVE SOME INTERESTING *NEW* EXHIBITS, THAT--

IT *CAN'T* BE CLOSED, GUARD! WE MUST *GET IN--!*

LIKE I SAID, SIR--I'M SORRY, BUT I'VE GOT MY *ORDERS!*

MAYBE IF YOU AND THE YOUNGSTERS HERE WILL COME BACK *TOMORROW--*

*YOUNGSTERS!* IF ONLY HE KNEW WE WERE THE *X-MEN!*

BUT, WE CAME IN *CIVVIES*--SO AS NOT TO AROUSE *ALARM!*

THEN, A SHARP, SUDDEN TELEPATHIC COMMAND EMANATES FROM *PROFESSOR X...*

WE DARE NOT *DELAY* ANY LONGER, JEAN! YOU KNOW WHAT TO *DO!*

*YES, SIR!*

*HEY!* WHAT IN--? I'M *SLIPPING--!*

*=UNNHHH!=*

*WOOF!*

HATED TO SLAM HIM AGAINST THE *DOOR* TO KNOCK HIM OUT--BUT IT WAS THE *BEST WAY!*

*GOOD*, JEAN! WHEN HE WAKES, HE'LL BELIEVE IT WAS AN *ACCIDENT*, AND--*WAIT!*

*THAT NOISE!*

COULD IT BE THAT WE'RE *--TOO LATE?*

*KRA-SH!*

*THWUP!*

*NO!* NOT IF WE GET INTO *COSTUME* FAST ENOUGH!

YOU CAN MENTALLY OBSERVE FROM *HERE*, SIR!

BUT, JUST A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY--THE *IMPOSSIBLE* HAS INDEED COME TO PASS...

*HUMAN WORMS!* YOU HAVE *SERVED*...YOUR PURPOSE! YOU HAVE BROUGHT ME... TO A *NEW LAND!*

NOW *STAND ASIDE*...OR I CRUSH YOU LIKE *FLEAS!*

*SLAM!*

*HE LIVES! THE MONSTER LIVES!!*

BUT--HE'S *ESCAPING*-- SMASHING THRU THE *WALLS!* HE *MUSTN'T*-- OR *NO ONE* WILL BE SAFE--!

THE NEXT MOMENT, AS IF ON CUE--*ENTER THE X-MEN!*

*LOOK OUT,* GUYS! HE'S TOO *BIG* FOR US TO *CHARGE* RIGHT INTO HIM!

YOUR ADMONISHMENT IS *WELL TAKEN,* LAD!

*YOU TWO* CAN STAND BACK AND WATCH, IF YOU WANT TO--

--BUT THE *ANGEL* IS GONNA TRY A LITTLE THING CALLED A *FRONTAL ASSAULT!*

YET, ALMOST BEFORE THE VERY *SYLLABLES* ESCAPE THE WINGED MUTANT'S LIPS--

*UNNNHH!*

HIS RAW POWER-- IT'S *BEYOND BELIEF!* AND HIS *FISTS*-- THEY'RE LIKE *IRON!*

HE'S SWATTING ME AWAY-- LIKE I WAS A *TENNIS BALL!*

*MORE* PUNY HUMANS--IN *COSTUMES* LIKE THE ONES I MOST *DESPISE!*

YOU WILL NOT PURSUE ME INTO THE LAND OF ICE A *SECOND* TIME!

THEN, EVEN AS THE HUGE FORM FINISHES ITS *FOLLOW-THRU...*

*SMASH!*

*THUNK!*

YOU WERE AMPLY *PREPARED* FOR THE ANGEL'S ONSLAUGHT!

LET'S SEE HOW YOU FARE AGAINST AN UNEXPECTEDLY REBOUNDING *BEAST!*

*ANOTHER* HUMAN... IN A BRIGHT-COLORED *COSTUME!*

BUT, YOU CANNOT HURT *ME!*

*OOOFF!* YOU MAY JUST *HAVE* SOMETHING THERE, FRIEND!

*WHAM!*

I DIDN'T EVEN *BUDGE* HIM-- BUT HE'S HURLING ME AWAY AS IF I WERE A VIRTUAL *PAPERWEIGHT!*

THE FOLLOWING INSTANT, A MASKED FIGURE APPEARS WHOSE MUTANT POWER OUTSTRIPS EVEN THAT OF *HANK McCOY...*

*STAND ASIDE,* ALL OF YOU! IT'S *CYCLOPS'* TURN AT BAT!

*ZAK!*

OKAY, MONSTER--OR WHATEVER YOU CALL YOURSELF-- NOW IT'S JUST *YOU* AND *ME!!*

YET, EVEN AS *CYCLOPS* HURLS HIS DEFIANT CHALLENGE--IN *ANOTHER* PART OF THE VAST BUILDING...

*POLICE DEPARTMENT?* THIS IS THE *CURATOR* OF THE CITY MUSEUM--AND I NEED HELP *FAST!*

I CAN HEAR SOMEONE--OR *SOMETHING*-- *TEARING UP* THE PLACE!

*WHAT?* NO, I HAVEN'T LOOKED TO SEE *WHAT* IT IS!

JUST RUSH SOME MEN HERE *AT ONCE* --WHILE I LOAD MY OWN *PISTOL!*

BUT, WHAT CAN MERE *BULLETS* HOPE TO DO AGAINST THE RAMPAGING CREATURE, WHEN--

YOU SEEK TO *HARM* ME--

--WITH NO WEAPON...BUT THAT FEEBLE *BEAM?*

*BTOK!*

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN FOR A *BATTLE!* ALL I CAN DO IS *SLOW HIM DOWN!*

STILL, I'M SURE NOW THAT HE'S AN *ANDROID*--MADE OF SOME KIND OF UNKNOWN *METAL!*

YOU ARE A MORE *DANGEROUS* FOE...THAN THOSE WHO ENTERED *BEFORE* YOU!

BUT, YOU SHALL *FALL...* BEFORE MY OWN VAST *POWER!*

*THAK!*

*FALL* IS *RIGHT!* I *TRIPPED*--OVER SOME *DEBRIS!* CAN'T *DODGE* HIM IN TIME--!

WHAT MAGIC... IS *THIS?*

SOME *INVISIBLE FORCE*... LIFTS HIM OUT OF MY PATH... AND BEYOND MY *REACH!*

*JEAN!* TALK ABOUT THE *CAVALRY* SHOWING UP IN THE *NICK OF TIME--!*

THANK *HEAVEN!* IF ANYTHING HAD *HAPPENED* TO YOU--!

BETTER SAVE IT FOR *LATER,* GIRL! WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS *YET!*

AND, SCOTT'S WORDS PROVE GRIMLY *PROPHETIC,* AS...

*YOU* USED RAYS FROM EYES... AGAINST *ME!*

NOW, I SHALL DO THE SAME... TO *YOU!*

*ZZZZ*

*LOOK OUT!* HE'S GOT HIS OWN SET OF *OPTIC BLASTS!*

BUT, NO SPEED ON *EARTH* CAN MATCH THE STAGGERING SPEED OF *LIGHT* ITSELF...

*SHOCK WAVES--* EVEN STRONGER THAN *CYKE'S!*

NO TIME--TO *DEFEND* US-- AGAINST THEM--!

*UHHNN!*

*BRAAKK*

THEN, AS THE *DUST* SETTLES...

ALL FOUR COSTUMED ONES... LIE *STILL!*

NO REASON... TO REMAIN *HERE!*

*KUNCH*

I HAVE SOMETHING I MUST DO... *ELSEWHERE!*

FORTUNATELY, THE *TRAINING* OF THE X-MEN HAS SAVED THEM FROM SERIOUS *HARM!* BUT, ALMOST AS THE CREATURE *VANISHES* FROM SIGHT--

*HANDS UP,* YOU--TILL YOU EXPLAIN WHY YOU WERE *VANDALIZING* THE MUSEUM!

*VANDALS?* THE EXEMPLARY *X-MEN?*

*NO USE!* I'LL HAVE TO TRY TO *DISARM* HIM!

I HOPE I CAN *REACH* HIM, BEFORE HE *FIRES!*

SAVE YOUR *ENERGY,* BEASTIE! *I'LL* STOP DEADEYE DICK HERE--WITH A THIN LAYER OF *ICE!*

I DON'T KNOW WHY THE PROF HAD ME *STAY OUTSIDE* AT THE LAST MINUTE --BUT I'M KINDA GLAD HE *DID!*

TRUTH TO TELL, LAD-- SO AM *I!*

SCANT SECONDS LATER, A BLACK *ROLLS-ROYCE* SPEEDS OFF INTO THE NIGHT...

DO YOU REALLY THINK WE CAN *FIND* HIM AGAIN, PROFESSOR?

HE WON'T REGISTER ON *CEREBRO--!*

WE *MUST* FIND HIM, SCOTT--

THAT'S WHY I SENT *ANGEL* AHEAD OF US--TO DO SOME *SCOUTING!*

HOWEVER, THE WINGED MUTANT'S TASK PROVES MUCH *EASIER* THAN EVEN *PROFESSOR X* COULD IMAGINE...

I TELL YOU IT WAS *ONE GUY* WHO DID THAT TO MY CAR--AND DARN NEAR TO *ME!*

HE WAS CLOSE TO *EIGHT FEET TALL*--LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A *MONSTER MOVIE!*

THAT GUY DOESN'T KNOW HOW CLOSE TO RIGHT HE *IS!*

BUT, I STILL NEED *ONE MORE* SIGHTING--TO BE SURE WHERE HE'S *GOING!*

JUST BEFORE WE BLACKED OUT, WE HEARD HIM SAY--THERE WAS SOMEWHERE HE MUST *GO!*

UH OH! LOOKS LIKE I'VE FOUND MY *SECOND CLUE!*

*SHEESH!* AND *WOW!!*

HE'S PILED UP A BUNCH OF *CARS* DOWN THERE--LIKE THEY WERE *AURORA MODELS!*

AND, HE SEEMS TO BE HEADING IN A *STRAIGHT LINE*--TOWARD THE *DOCKS!*

THUS, A MERE *INSTANT* LATER, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE SPRAWLING, NIGHT-SHROUDED CITY...

PROFESSOR--WHAT *IS* IT?

HE MUST HAVE HAD A *MENTAL REPORT* FROM WARREN!

*YES*... AND IT ONLY *CONFIRMED* WHAT I ALREADY *FEARED!*

WE MUST GET TO *NEW YORK HARBOR*--AS QUICKLY AS *POSSIBLE!*

AND, IN ALMOST LESS TIME THAN IT TAKES TO *WRITE* THESE IMPERISHABLE WORDS--THE X-MEN ARE *AIRBORNE...*

NOW I KNOW WHY YOU HAD ME DRIVE YOU TO THE *PAN-AM BUILDING, SIR!*

CORRECT, SCOTT! MY MENTAL POWERS DON'T INCLUDE *TELEPORTATION...*

BUT, I *COULD* COMMAND THE OFFICIALS TO GIVE US A *HELICOPTER*--AND THEN *FORGET* THE WHOLE MATTER!

WE CAN *RETURN* IT LATER--BUT RIGHT NOW, WE'VE GOT TO STOP THAT *ANDROID!*

AH...THERE'S *WARREN*--PRECISELY WHERE HIS THOUGHTS *TOLD* ME HE'D BE!

YEAH--HE'S A REGULAR *BIRD DOG!*

BUT, WHAT ABOUT *ME*, SIR? WILL I GET IN ON THE *ACTION* THIS TIME?

DON'T WORRY, ICEMAN! I HAD YOU STAY BACK LAST TIME BECAUSE OF A *PREMONITION* I HAD!

BUT *THIS* TIME, I FEAR WE'LL NEED *ALL* OUR POWERS--AND I ONLY PRAY THEY'LL BE *ENOUGH!*

THEN, AFTER THE 'COPTER HAS *LANDED* ON THE DECK OF THE SOUTH-BOUND *FREIGHTER*...

YOU KNOW WHAT TO *DO*, MY X-MEN! I'LL REMAIN *HERE*--FOR NOW!

WE WON'T LET YOU *DOWN*, SIR! I *PROMISE* YOU THAT!

FIRST, THOUGH, WE'LL HAVE TO HANDLE THIS *RECEPTION COMMITTEE!*

UH OH! HOMO SAPIENS ARE SUSPICIOUS ENOUGH OF US *ANYWAY*...

OKAY, MATE--*HOLD IT* RIGHT THERE!

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU JOKERS *ARE*... BUT IN THOSE *MASKS*, YOU GOTTA BE UP TO *NO GOOD!*

AND NOW, IN THEIR *NEW COSTUMES*, SCOTT AND JEANIE AREN'T EVEN *RECOGNIZABLE!*

KEEP THAT *GUN* TRAINED ON 'EM, CHARLIE!

C'MON, MATES... LET'S TAKE OFF THOSE *MASKS*, AND FIND OUT WHO-- *WHA*--??

MY HUMBLE THANKS FOR YOUR TIMELY *ASSIST*, ANGEL!

AS FOR *YOU* FINE LADS--I SUGGEST YOU TAKE A REFRESHER COURSE IN *HOSPITALITY!*

GET OUTTA THE *WAY*, YOU GUYS, AND I'LL--; *UNNGH!*= CAN'T *SEE*--!

*OOOF!*

THAT'S THE GENERAL *IDEA*, FELLA!

*GREAT GOING*, ICEMAN! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE *REST*-- WITH AN EXTRA-MILD *FORCE RAY!*

WE'RE DOING THIS FOR THEIR *OWN GOOD!* WITH THAT *ANDROID* HIDING ABOARD, THEY'RE ALL IN UNBELIEVABLE *DANGER!*

*MARVEL GIRL*-- HERE COMES THE *CAPTAIN* ON THE RUN!

*BWAK!*

AND THERE HE *GOES*... INTO THE *AIR!*

THE *X-MEN*.? I, UH--*PERMISSION GRANTED!*

WE CAN'T EXPLAIN *NOW*, CAPTAIN-- BUT WE'RE THE *X-MEN*-- AND WE *MUST* SEARCH THIS SHIP!

SO MUCH FOR *THAT* HURDLE! NOW TO--

*PROFESSOR!* I THOUGHT YOU STAYED IN THE *'COPTER!*

I DECIDED I MUST BE *PRESENT*--SO THAT I CAN USE MY *FULL POWERS* AT THE PRECISE MOMENT.!

I'LL USE MY MENTAL ABILITIES TO HOLD THE CREW *IMMOBILE*--WHILE YOU SEARCH THE *HOLD!* BUT, BE *CAREFUL!*

YOU BETTER *BELIEVE* IT--*SIR!*

*ICEMAN*--*MARVEL GIRL*--YOU STAY *ABOVE* DECKS, WHILE THE OTHERS LOOK *BELOW!*

AND SO, A FEW SECONDS AFTERWARD, A BIZARRE *HUNT* BEGINS...

IT'S ALMOST BEYOND BELIEF! *FRANKENSTEIN'S CREATION*--NOT A MYTH, BUT A LIVING *REALITY!*

I WONDER IF THE PROFESSOR WAS *RIGHT*--AND THAT IT WAS THE WORK OF SOME EARLIER *MUTANT!*

IF SO, PERHAPS WE CAN *REASON* WITH IT--USE ITS GREAT POWER FOR THE *BENEFIT* OF MANKIND--!

WHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE VESSEL...

MY BEASTLY INSTINCTS TELL ME THAT I'M ON THE *RIGHT TRACK!*

BUT, AMONG THESE TROPIC-BOUND *CRATES*-- HE COULD BE *ANY-WHERE!*

DESTINATION: BUENOS AIRES

THE NEXT EAR-SHATTERING *INSTANT...*

FF4

*YIPES!*

I THINK I'VE *FOUND* HIM!

ONCE *MORE*... YOU COSTUMED ONES *HOUND* ME!

THIS TIME I SHALL *SMASH OUT*... AND *DESTROY* YOU!

AND, HE'S JUST THE ONE TO *DO* IT, TOO!

ONLY MY EXCEPTIONAL *AGILITY* KEPT ME OUT OF REACH OF THE SWING OF THAT STEEL-HARD *HAND!*

NOR HAS THE CRASH OF *METAL* ON *WOOD* BEEN LOST ON THREE PAIRS OF EARS *ABOVE...*

THAT *SOUND--!* ONE OF THEM MUST HAVE *LOCATED* THE CREATURE!

*PROFESSOR... NOW* CAN I--?

*NO,* BOBBY! THE TIME HAS NOT YET *COME!*

BUT, *STAND READY,* ALL OF YOU! I SENSE THE ANDROID IS DRAWING *CLOSER!*

AND, THE ANXIOUS TRIO DON'T HAVE LONG TO *WAIT...*

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD STOP TO *THANK* OUR PRODIGIOUS PREY FOR MAKING THAT *EMERGENCY EXIT* FOR ME...

BUT, I THINK I PREFER TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE BY *MAIL!*

*INCREDIBLE!* THAT *HAND*-- RIPPING THRU *SOLID STEEL!*

FIRST THE HAND--THEN THE TWISTED *FACE* AND POWER-PACKED *FORM* OF THE FAR-FAMED MONSTER APPEAR THRU THE GAPING HOLE! BUT *THEN...*

ALWAYS THE *COSTUMED* ONES PURSUE ME...LEAVE ME NO *REST!* I MUST *DESTROY... DESTROY* THEM!!

BUT--WHAT'S *THIS?* A *ROPE*-- DROPPING ON ME FROM OUT OF THE *SKY* ITSELF!

IT WAS *HIGH TIME* I GOT INTO THE ACT!

*HOIST AWAY,* BEAST! ONCE HE'S OFF THE DECK, HE'LL BE *HELP-LESS!*

MY TASK IS *SIMPLICITY ITSELF,* MY FEATHERED FRIEND--IF I ONLY HAVE ENOUGH *LEVERAGE!*

BUT, *AMAZINGLY--*

*NO!* YOU WILL *NOT* RAISE ME... INTO THE AIR!

IT *CAN'T* BE! HE GENERATES SOME SORT OF *MAGNETISM!* HIS FEET ARE STICKING TO THE *DECK!*

THEN...

*SNAP!*

YOU PULLED *TOO HARD...* COSTUMED ONE!

I AM *FREE* AGAIN... FREE TO *DESTROY!*

AND, DESTROY I *SHALL!*

I KNOW THE PROF SAID TO *STAY BACK--* BUT I CAN'T *STAND* IT ANY LONGER!

BESIDES, I CAN'T HAVE WORSE LUCK THAN THE *REST* OF THE X-MEN ARE HAVING!

*ANOTHER* WEAK HUMAN ATTACKS ME! BUT, THIS ONE USES *ICE...* AS A WEAPON!

*HE* IS THE ONE...I MUST KILL...BEFORE ALL *OTHERS!*

*NUTS!* LOOKS LIKE ALL I DID WAS MAKE MYSELF HIS *NUMBER ONE TARGET!*

LUCKY I CAN *QUICK-FREEZE* THOSE BARRELS HE'S TOSSING!

BUT, I'M BETTIN' I WON'T BE ABLE TO PUT *HIM* IN COLD STORAGE!

DON'T EVEN *TRY,* BOBBY! YOU KNOW WHAT THE *PROFESSOR* WARNED US--!

YOU *DID* IT, GIRL! YOU TELEKINET-ICALLY *STOPPED* HIM!

BUT ONLY FOR A *SECOND!* AND, I CAN'T *LIFT* HIM-- ANY MORE THAN *HANK* COULD!

PUNY COSTUMED *HUMANS!* I HAVE TOYED WITH YOU *LONG ENOUGH!*

NOW, IT IS TIME...FOR YOU TO FEEL...MY FULL *POWER!*

*OHHH... SHOCK WAVES--!*

HE STAMPED ONE OF HIS FEET--WITH *TERRIFIC FORCE--!*

THE *FEMALE* IS DOWN! BUT, IT IS THE *OTHER* COSTUMED ONE ...THAT TRULY *CONCERNS* ME!

*SLAM!*

*HOWEVER--AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT--THE RAMPAGING ANDROID'S FEARS ARE GROUNDLESS..*

THE VIBRATIONS --SENT THOSE FROZEN *BARRELS* HURTLING AT ME!

KNOCKING ME *AROUND--!* I ONLY HOPE --MY *ICY EPIDERMIS* PROTECTS ME!

*NEXT, BEFORE THE GARGANTUAN MONSTER CAN GAUGE THE FULL EFFECTS OF HIS INCREDIBLE FEAT...*

MY OPTIC-BLASTS MAY NOT *STOP* HIM--BUT FROM THIS ANGLE, AT LEAST HE CAN'T *ABSORB* THEM AND TOSS THEM *BACK* AT ME!

IF ONLY WE COULD SOMEHOW HAVE *REASONED* WITH HIM--

*LOT!*

WHO ARE THE OTHER *"COSTUMED ONES"* HE REFERS TO--THAT HE *HATES* SO??

*YOU* AGAIN! YOU MUST HAVE BEEN *OUT OF RANGE* BEFORE! BUT NOW, I'LL--

YOU'LL *BORE* US TO DEATH WITH YOUR SALACIOUS *SOLILOQUIES,* MY FATUOUS FRIEND!

WHY CAN'T YOU BE THE STRONG, *SILENT* TYPE-- LIKE *BORIS KARLOFF?*

*BOK!*

*:UMMFF!:* YOUR WORDS MEAN *NOTHING* TO ME, ACCURSED ONE!

STILL, I SHALL SEE THAT YOU UTTER *NO MORE* OF THEM!

*THAT,* FRANKLY, WILL BE THE *DAYYYY--!*

*:UNNHHH!:*

*HAH!* HE DID NOT SUSPECT... I WOULD DISLODGE...THE VERY *POST* FROM WHICH HE SWUNG!

NOT ALL THE *COSTUMED ONES...* WHO STILL ABOUND IN THIS WORLD...SHALL STOP ME FROM REACHING MY *GOAL!*

*THEN, THE NEXT STARTLING SECOND, AN OVER-WHELMING THOUGHT PERMEATES THE FROSTY OCEAN AIR...*

*I* AM NOT ONE OF THE *COSTUMED ONES* YOU DESPISE, ANDROID--BUT IT IS I WHO *COMMAND* THEM TO ATTACK YOU!

THEREFORE, IT IS *I* WHOM YOU MUST FIRST DESTROY--OR I WHO SHALL *DEFEAT* YOU!

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YOU? YOU SEEM... THE MOST HELPLESS OF ALL!

YET, YOU DARE... TO CHALLENGE ME! WITH THAT... YOU SEAL YOUR OWN DOOM!

HE MAY BE RIGHT! I HAVE A PLAN--BUT I NEED A FEW MORE SECONDS!

I SENSE THAT EVEN MY MENTAL BOLTS WILL ONLY DELAY HIM!

CYCLOPS! TO ME-- AT ONCE!

NO SOONER SAID THAN DONE, PROFESSOR!

I'VE NO CHOICE BUT A FRONTAL ATTACK THIS TIME! THE OTHER X-MEN ARE DOWN FOR THE COUNT!

SPTAK!

YOUR ATTACKS ARE USELESS... WITHOUT PURPOSE! YOU CANNOT HURT ME!

BUT I CAN DO... THIS!

WITH ONE BLOW--HE SMASHED PART OF THE HULL OUT FROM UNDER ME!

THOK!

WHAT'S MORE, I USED UP ALL MY OPTIC POWER IN THAT LAST TRY!

I ONLY HOPE THE PROFESSOR KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING!

THE STRANGE-EYED YOUTH ...DOES NOT CONCERN ME! IT IS YOU I WANT... HELPLESS ONE!

YET... SOME INVISIBLE FORCE... HOLDS ME BACK--!

YES--THE INVISIBLE MUTANT FORCE--OF MY MENTAL BOLTS!

BUT, THE ANDROID HAS NO HUMAN BRAIN FOR ME TO CONTROL!

MY ONLY HOPE IS THAT MY FINAL TELEPATHIC CALL IS SUCCESSFUL--IN THE NEXT FEW MOMENTS!

AND, AT THAT PRECISE INSTANT...

ICE--THE ONE THING I HATE MOST! FORMING AROUND ME-- COVERING ME-- FREEZING ME--!

HE DID IT! BOBBY CAME THRU!

WHILE SCOTT FOUGHT A DELAYING ACTION, I USED ALMOST ALL MY MENTAL POWER... TO TRY TO REVIVE HIM!

AND, THIS FRESH-FROZEN, HOT-HEADED X-MAN WOKE UP, PROFESSOR-- JUST IN TIME!

NOW I SEE WHY YOU TOLD ME TO STAY BACK BEFORE! YOU SENSED THAT THE ANDROID WAS AFRAID OF ICE!

IT WILL DO YOU... NO GOOD, FOOL! I CAN BREAK OUT OF THIS WALL OF ICE... AND I SHALL!

KKR-AK!

THE ICE IS CRACKING! GOT TO KEEP POURING IT ON!

FOR LONG, AGONIZING MOMENTS, THE YOUNGEST X-MAN STRAINS HIS ICE-FORMING POWERS TO THE *UTMOST!*

THEN--

THE *COLD!* CAN'T STAND... THE *COLD*--!

MUST STRAIN *HARDER*--MUST *FREE* MYSELF... BEFORE IT'S *TOO LATE*--!

*BOBBY*--DON'T *STOP!* KEEP IT UP --JUST A FEW MORE *SECONDS!* JUST--

*WAIT!!* THROW AN *ICE COVER* OVER US-- *NOW!!*

AND, EVEN AS BOBBY DRAKE INSTANTANEOUSLY *OBEYS*--

*KA*

*BOOM!*

SOON, WHEN THE ONCE-MIGHTY CREATURE IS NAUGHT BUT SMOKING *DEBRIS*...

THE ONE THING HE COULDN'T STAND...WAS *INTENSE COLD!* AND--YOU *KNEW* IT, PROFESSOR!

I'M SORRY I ALMOST *FOULED UP*--BY ATTACKING *TOO SOON!*

NEVER MIND, BOBBY! WHAT MATTERS IS THAT, IN HIS LAST SHIMMERING SECOND OF LIFE, I PROBED THE ANDROID'S ARTIFICIAL *BRAIN*--

--AND LEARNED THE REAL *ORIGIN* OF THE SO-CALLED *"FRANKEN-STEIN'S MONSTER"!*

WHAT *WAS* IT SIR? WHERE WAS HE *FROM?*

"NOT FROM *THIS* EARTH, MY X-MEN! HE WAS THE CREATION OF SOME *ALIEN RACE* FROM A FAR-OFF *TROPICAL PLANET*--WHICH PASSED NEAR OUR WORLD *150 YEARS AGO...*"

BEFORE *WE* APPROACH THE PLANET'S INHABITANTS, WE SHALL SEND THIS EXPERIMENTAL *ANDROID* TO THEM!

IF *HE* IS RECEIVED WITH UNDERSTAND-ING BY THEM-- WE WILL THEN ESTABLISH *PERSONAL CONTACT!*

THEN--THE ANDROID WAS MEANT TO BE THE FIRST *INTER-STELLAR AMBASSADOR!* BUT, WHAT WENT *WRONG*--?

EVIDENTLY IT WENT *BERSERK*, JEAN--THRU SOME *MALFUNCTION*-- AND BECAME INSTEAD A *MENACE* TO EARTH-MEN!

THE ALIENS PURSUED IT TO OUR *POLAR REGIONS*-- WHERE, SINCE IT WAS CREATED IN THEIR IMAGE, THE MONSTER WAS *HELPLESS!*

WHEN IT REVIVED, IT KNEW ONLY THE INSTINCT OF *SURVIVAL*--AND STRUCK OUT AT *YOU*, BECAUSE YOU RESEMBLED THE *COLORFULLY-GARBED ALIENS!*

WE'LL NEVER KNOW HOW *MARY SHELLEY* LEARNED ANY OF THIS --BUT, PERHAPS IT'S JUST AS *WELL!*

SOME TIME LATER, BACK AT THEIR CLOISTERED *SCHOOL*...

"...BUT, THE SHIP'S *CAPTAIN* WAS AT A LOSS TO TELL WHAT *CAUSED* THE MINOR EXPLOSION NEAR THE HARBOR!"

TOO BAD YOU HAD TO MAKE THE WHOLE CREW *FORGET* OUR SKIRMISH WITH THE *ANDROID*, PROFESSOR!

PERHAPS, HANK... BUT REMEMBER, OUR PURPOSE IS TO *SAFEGUARD* THE WORLD--NOT SEARCH FOR *PERSONAL GLORY!*

SO IT HAS EVER BEEN... AND SO IT SHALL *ALWAYS* BE!

NEXT ISH: "THE *COMING* OF... *GROTESK!*"

# THE ORIGINS OF THE UNCANNY X-MEN!

# "THE FIRST EVIL MUTANT!"

AS A RUNAWAY **SCOTT SUMMERS**, FLEEING THE TERRORS OF A WORLD THAT FEARS AND HATES HIM, PLUNGES THRU THE FOREST --HE FEELS A SUDDEN DESIRE TO ENTER A DECREPIT, DIMLY-LIT **SHACK**, AND--WELL, LET'S LET THE FUTURE **CYCLOPS** TELL IT, SHALL WE--?

I WAS **DRAWN** IN HERE-- ALMOST AS IF I WERE BEING **CONTROLLED!** BUT, THERE'S NO ONE HERE--BUT **YOU!**

WHO **ARE** YOU --AND **HOW**--?

I'LL DO THE TALKING, BOY!

MY NAME IS WINTERS-- **JACK WINTERS!**

AND I'M A **MUTANT**-- THE SAME AS **YOU** ARE-- WHETHER YOU **KNOW** IT YET OR **NOT!**

YOU BETTER **BELIEVE** THAT **STAN LEE**, EDITOR, **ROY THOMAS**, WRITER, AND **WERNER ROTH**, ARTIST, CO-CREATED THIS SPELL-BINDING SHOCKER...

--'CAUSE **JOHN VERPOORTEN**, INKER, AND **AL KURZROK**, LETTERER, SURE AREN'T GONNA TAKE THE BLAME!

A **MUTANT**? I DON'T EVEN KNOW --WHAT YOU **MEAN**!

SURE, I'M RUNNING AWAY FROM AN **ORPHANAGE**--BUT THAT'S **ALL**! I--

DON'T GIVE ME **THAT**, KID! I CAN TELL WHEN I MENTALLY CONTACT ANOTHER **MUTANT BRAIN**--AND I JUST **DID**!

MATTER OF FACT, I'M BETTIN' YOU'RE THE ONE THAT CAUSED THAT STIR IN THE **CAPITAL** EARLIER TODAY!*

*NO TIME TO GO INTO **DETAILS** NOW, BUT IT HAPPENED **LAST ISH**!
--SUCCINCT STAN.

OKAY--I'LL **ADMIT** THAT MUCH! MY EYES SEEM TO SHOOT OUT SOME SORT OF **FORCE RAY**--THAT ONLY THESE **DARK GLASSES** CAN CONTROL!

BUT, **YOU'RE** NOT WEARING SUNGLASSES LIKE MINE! IS **YOUR** POWER JUST A **MENTAL** ONE, OR--?

**LATER**, KID--AFTER I DOUSE THIS **LAMP**!

'CAUSE, WE'RE ABOUT TO HAVE **COMPANY**!

COMPANY? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THE FUZZ, SONNY! THEY'RE LOOKIN' FOR YOU--I COULD TELL BY THEIR MENTAL VIBRATIONS!

BUT, THEY'RE NOT ABOUT TO FIND YOU--NOT WHILE I CAN DO ...THIS!

WHA--? FEEL SO STRANGE...!

NOW I FEEL AS IF I'M DISSOLVING--FADING AWAY INTO NOTHING BUT ATOMS..!

THAT'S JUST WHAT YOU ARE DOING--BUT DON'T GET IN AN UPROAR ABOUT IT!

I'LL BE JOINING YOU--IN JUST ABOUT TWO SECONDS!

HE'S GONE!

NOW, I'LL FOCUS MY POWERS ON MYSELF--AND CUT OUT BEFORE THE COPS WALK IN!

I CAN FEEL THEIR VIBRATIONS SO STRONG, THEY MUST BE RIGHT OUTSIDE THE DOOR!

BUT, FOR ALL I CARE, THEY MIGHT BE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOON!

POOF

AND, INDEED, ONLY MOMENTS AFTERWARD...

I MUST BE CRACKIN' UP, MARV!

TELL ME THAT WE DID HEAR VOICES IN HERE--AND THAT THAT LAMP WAS BURNING!

WE CAN BE SURE ABOUT THE LAMP, ANYWAY! IT'S STILL WARM!

BUT, IT MUST'VE BEEN THE WIND THAT WE HEARD--AND THAT BLEW OUT THE FLAME!

C'MON, WE'VE STILL GOTTA FIND THAT YOUNGSTER--THE ONE THAT SCARED US WITH THOSE NUTTY EYE-BEAMS A WHILE BACK!

MEANWHILE, AT A CERTAIN SECLUDED MANSION SOMEWHERE IN NEW YORK'S WESTCHESTER COUNTY, A SECOND, MUCH DIFFERENT SEARCH IS BEING WAGED FOR THE MISSING SCOTT SUMMERS...

THIS MAKESHIFT DEVICE OF MINE--WHICH I CALL CYBERNO* --SHOULD FIND YOUNG SUMMERS FOR ME--AS I PROBE THE WASHINGTON AREA IN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLES!

BY NOW, HE COULD WELL HAVE REACHED THE NEW JERSEY-PENNSYLVANIA BORDER, AND--

WAIT! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING!

I'VE FOUND HIM! IT MUST BE HE--FROM THE DATA I FED INTO MY OWN PERSONAL COMPUTER!

BUT, THERE'S A SECOND, FAR STRONGER FORCE REGISTERING, AS WELL!

I ATTEMPTED TO LOCATE ONE MUTANT--AND I SEEM TO HAVE FOUND TWO!!

*CYBERNO, OF COURSE, IS A SOMEWHAT LESS SOPHISTICATED VERSION OF CEREBRO, THE PROF'S LATER MUTANT-DETECTING MACHINE!

--SPELL-IT-OUT STAN.

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THEN, AS CHARLES XAVIER BRINGS INTO PLAY HIS FULL POWERS OF CONCENTRATION...

JUST A FEW MORE SECONDS... AND I'LL HAVE AN EXACT READING OF THEIR LOCATION! THEN--

BUT, THE FOLLOWING INSTANT...

THE IMAGES-- THEY'RE BOTH GONE!!

ZZLT!

IT'S INCREDIBLE--! JUST AS IF THE PEOPLE THEY REPRESENTED HAD VANISHED OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH!

BUT, THAT MAKES IT ALL THE MORE URGENT THAT I FIND THEM!

--BEFORE A HOSTILE MOB DOES!

YET, SOME HOURS LATER--IN A PLACE NOT FAR FROM PROFESSOR X'S COUNTRY MANSION--TWO MATERIALIZING FIGURES HAVE OTHER THINGS ON THEIR MIND...

WELL, KID, HERE WE ARE--

--INSIDE THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT--JUST LIKE I SAID WE'D BE! IMPRESSED?

I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT! YOU HAVE THE POWER OF... TELEPORTATION!"

"AS DID THE VITUPERATIVE VANISHER--A SOMEWHAT LATER X-MEN FOE!

--SMILEY.

YEAH--BUT JUST FOR SHORT DISTANCES! THAT'S WHY WE HAD TO HOP A TRAIN TO GET HERE--SO WE CAN GO TO WORK ON THIS PLACE!

GO TO WORK ON IT? BUT-- I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU INTEND TO DO!

AND--WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME ALONG?

YOU ASK TOO MANY QUESTIONS! JUST TRUST ME, SUMMERS!

AFTER ALL, WE'RE BOTH FELLOW MUTANTS, AIN'T WE?

MAYBE SO... BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M GOING TO HELP YOU IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING SHADY UP YOUR SLEEVE! I--

DON'T GET CUTE WITH ME, KID! REMEMBER --YOU'RE ALREADY GUILTY OF, SAY, BREAKING AND ENTERING!

BUT, TELL YOU WHAT... TO SET YOUR MIND AT EASE, I'LL TELL YOU JUST WHAT I'M PLANNIN'!

"A FEW MONTHS BACK, I WAS JUST ANOTHER WORKER AT THIS PLANT-- NOT MAKIN' ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY OFF SOME GAMBLIN' DEBTS OF MINE! SO, ONE NIGHT, I DECIDED I WAS THRU SLAVIN' FOR PEANUTS..."

I THOUGHT THAT GUARD WOULD NEVER PASS!

I BEEN HIDIN' ON THAT STAIRWAY FOR HOURS--WAITIN' FOR A CHANCE TO GET AT THIS LAB!

THE BIG BOSSES WILL PAY PLENTY TO GET BACK SOME OF THE RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS I'M GONNA SWIPE!

"BUT, I WASN'T USED TO *HANDLIN'* THE HOT STUFF, AND--"

SOMETHING-- WENT *WRONG!*

*SPOOL*

THE FLASK OF *ISOTOPES*--IT'S --*EXPLODING*--!!

"LUCKY FOR ME, I MANAGED TO *ESCAPE* WITHOUT BEIN' CAUGHT--BUT I SPENT THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS IN A *HOSPITAL*! THEN..."

THOSE *RADIATION BURNS* --HOWEVER HE GOT THEM --MAY CAUSE *PERMANENT DAMAGE* TO HIS BRAIN AND HANDS!

MAYBE--JUST THE SAME, HE'S LUCKY TO BE *ALIVE!*

*AM* I LUCKY? LUCKY TO BE GOOD FOR NOTHING BUT A *DRIFTER* --A *HOBO?*

I WISH I'D BEEN *KILLED* IN THAT CRUMMY BLOW-UP!

"SURE, I WISHED I WAS *DEAD*--BUT ONLY FOR A *WHILE!* THEN, SEVERAL NIGHTS LATER, NOT FAR FROM WHERE I FOUND *YOU*, KID--"

MY *BRAIN'S* TINGLIN'--LIKE I WAS PICKIN' UP *RADIO WAVES* OR SOMETHIN'!

AND MY *HANDS*-- THEY FEEL... KINDA *FUNNY!*

GOTTA TAKE OFF THESE *GLOVES* I BEEN WEARIN' OVER MY *BURNS* THE LAST FEW DAYS---!

YOU CAN *GUESS* THE REST! MY BRAIN WAS PICKIN' UP *THOUGHT WAVES*--TELLIN' ME WHEN ANYBODY WAS *NEAR!*

I WAS *WONDERING* WHY HE NEVER REMOVED THEM!

AND NOW, I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT I SAW WHEN I TOOK OFF MY *GLOVES!*

WAIT--THAT STRANGE *GLEAM*--COMING FROM HIS BARE *WRIST..!*

YOUR *HANDS* --THEY'RE--

*YEAH*, SUMMERS --YOUR EYES AIN'T PLAYIN' *TRICKS* ON YOU! LOOK FOR *YOURSELF!*

THAT RADIOACTIVE STUFF TURNED MY HANDS TO PURE *DIAMOND* --THE HARDEST THING IN THE *WORLD!*

IT *CAN'T* BE! IT'S-- *IMPOSSIBLE..!*

*IMPOSSIBLE*, KID? THAT WORD DON'T *EXIST* ANY MORE --NOT FOR *ME!*

IF YOU DON'T *BELIEVE* ME, JUST WATCH HOW MY HAND GOES RIGHT THRU THIS BLASTED *STEEL BEAM!*

NOT FOR-- *JACK O'DIAMONDS!!*

AND IT'LL DO THE SAME TO *YOU*--IF YOU TRY TO *FINK OUT* ON ME!

*THWAK!*

HE'S...*INSANE!* THE RADIATION HE ABSORBED --MUST ALSO HAVE AFFECTED HIS *MIND!*

I THOUGHT HE HAD *BEFRIENDED* ME-- BUT NOW I SEE HE ONLY WANTS ME AS AN *ALLY* IN HIS MAD PLANS!

IT WAS AN *ACCIDENT* THAT GAVE ME THESE HANDS--THESE *INDESTRUCTIBLE* HANDS!

BUT, I'VE BEEN DOIN' SOME *THINKING* SINCE THEN--AND I GOT IT ALL *FIGURED OUT!*

A *HEAVIER DOSE* OF THAT STUFF SHOULD MAKE ME HARD AS DIAMOND *ALL OVER!*

AND, IF I HANDLE IT RIGHT, MAYBE I CAN ALSO INCREASE MY *BRAINPOWER!*

*UHNN!* SUDDEN *THOUGHT WAVES* --FILLING MY *HEAD--!*

*STOP,* JACK WINTERS! CEASE YOUR BLIND QUEST FOR *POWER--* BEFORE IT'S *TOO LATE!*

THOSE *THOUGHTS --SO OVER-WHELM-ING!*

ARE WE BEING OBSERVED BY *--ANOTHER MUTANT??*

THEN, *THAT* ACCOUNTS FOR THE FEELIN' I HAD--THAT WE WERE BEIN' *SHADOWED!*

*LOOK--* THAT GUY COMIN' DOWN THE HALL IN A *WHEEL-CHAIR--* IT'S GOTTA BE *HIM!*

USE THOSE *EYES* OF YOURS TO *BLAST* HIM-- *FAST!!*

*NO!!* AT THIS RANGE--THAT WOULD BE SHEER *MURDER!* NO MATTER *WHAT* YOU DO TO ME--I WON'T BECOME A *KILLER!*

I'M LUCKY TO HAVE *LOCATED* THEM, BEFORE THE *EVIL* MUTANT GAINED TOO MUCH OF A HOLD ON YOUNG *SCOTT!*

IT'S *RISKY* TO CONFRONT THEM BOTH *ALONE--* BUT I MUST *TRY!*

OKAY, KID--I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO *SHOW* YOU WHAT IT MEANS TO CROSS ME--BY *POLISHIN' OFF* THAT CRUMB MYSELF-- *WHOEVER* HE IS!

FROM THEN ON, YOU'LL PLAY BALL WITH *ME--* 'CAUSE I GOT *PLANS* FOR THOSE EYE-BEAMS OF YOURS!

HE'S RUSHING STRAIGHT *TOWARDS* ME! HE'LL *CRUSH* ME WITH THESE FLEXIBLE DIAMOND HANDS OF HIS, UNLESS--

*NO USE!* HIS OWN MIND RESISTS MY *MENTAL BOLTS--* CANCELS THEM OUT!

AM I *DOOMED--* DOOMED BEFORE I *BEGIN?*

SAY YOUR *PRAYERS,* BALDY! YOU'RE ABOUT TO BECOME THE *FIRST VICTIM* OF--

*--JACK O' DIAMONDS!!*

NEXT ISH: *"IF I SHOULD DIE...!"*